

## Hints for Horsekeepers.

To the Editor of the Citizen:

Having with your kind permission said a word for the birds, permit me to put in a plea for the horses. Through the enthusiastic labors of that eminent philanthropist, the late Henry Bergh, the brute creation is now treated with more of thoughtfulness and kindness than ever before, but the caprices and laws of fashion are so whimsical and inexorable that much suffering and inconvenience is caused in complying with them. Just now anything that is "English, you know," is the popular whim, and in utter defiance of good taste and beauty the tails of coach and saddle horses must be banded. If the cruelty of the operation was the only objection besides its ugliness, that might be passed over as but momentary, but when we remember that the poor beast is thus deprived, not alone of his finest ornament, but of his only protection against the merciless assaults of flies and other insects, our disgust at the mutilation assumes the form of indignation against its author, and we are tempted to wish that he might be stretched prone on the New Jersey meadows without clothing and his hands tied behind him as a prey for the mosquitoes. An equally cruel thing is the use of the Jackson check rein. All check-reins which constrain a horse to hold his head in an unnatural and painful position are objectionable, and interfere with the best efforts of the horse, whether it be in working or speeding, and no horseman who races would think of interfering with the powers of his animal by the use of a check. But if the ordinary check is objectionable the overhead or Jackson check is brutal, abominable and almost necessarily painful. That it forces a horse to elevate his head is its only merit, and if we consider nature and the natural mode in which a horse carries his head, it may be doubted if this is not an objection. That which is out of harmony with the laws of nature cannot be regarded as beautiful. There is another almost universal practice which has neither beauty nor utility in its favor, and that is the use of blinders. During the warm weather it has become quite customary for truckmen in New York who own their own teams to dispense with all headgear save a small cord from behind the ears to the bits, and it is remarkable how much is added to the beauty as well as the comfort of their horses by this simple contrivance. In the construction of harness the omission of the blinders would be in good taste and there are but few horses who would not thereby be made more intelligent and safe, as in most cases fright with them is an apprehension of something that they cannot see, or see imperfectly. A man careful of his horse always drives him up to an object of which he evinces fear in order that he may know its harmlessness, and judicious action of this kind rarely fails to render a horse fearless. It is believed that in the vast majority of cases the bad practices enumerated above are the results of pure thoughtlessness and a following of fashion, and that many only need to have their attention directed to the matter to produce a much needed reformation.

E. A. S.

## Prince Methusalem.

Monday evening, July 16th, the McCaull Opera Company will return from their short vacation and resume their summer engagement at Wallace's Theatre, New York City, presenting as their opening attraction Prince Methusalem, one of the jolliest of the comic operas of the day. This work, by Johanna Strauss, familiarly known as the "Waltz King," has long been one of the most popular features of the McCaull repertoire and whenever given has proved very successful, possessing as it does so many pleasant features, brilliant music, an interesting story, military movements, handsome costumes and scenery, together with a cast including many well-known artists of the McCaull organization, among whom are Marion Manola, Annie Myers, Marie Sager, Josephine Knapp, Grace Seaver, De Wolf Hopper, Jefferson de Angelis, Alfred Klein, John J. Rafael, Herbert Cripps and Lindsay Morrison, together with a chorus, large in numbers, thoroughly drilled and possessing many sweet and cultivated voices.

## Greenwood Lake.

The popularity of Greenwood Lake as a summer resort is increasing annually. The Sunday excursions have proved a remarkable success. The steamer Montclair now makes regular excursions around the Lake. The Hotel accommodations barely meet the demand made on them and extensive enlargements are talked of among the principal hotel men. The annual rattlesnake scare is lessening year by year and will soon be a thing of the past. During the severe wind storm of the 1st inst., several large eagles were seen hovering in the air. The Greenwood Lake Express has been fitted up with new and handsome cars built by the Ohio Falls Company, and are said to be the finest in use on the Erie system. Fishing has not been good constantly, but on several days through each week bass bite well and good catches have been made. Big Storms and Fred Clarke are now located on Storms Island where they have boats and bait constantly on hand.

## Spragg's Pavilion.

The meeting at Spragg's Pavilion on Monday evening last, despite the rain, was a very large and successful one. The place had been fitted up with platform and chairs and was lighted with gas. Flags were festooned above the speaker's stand, and altogether the place had undergone a transformation. The building proved to be well adapted for public meetings—better in fact, than any place in town aside from the churches, the room being on a level with the street and having a capacity of from four to five hundred sittings.

By eight o'clock the seats were all taken, more than half of them being occupied by those whose faces are not often seen in church or religious assemblages.

The attraction, of course, was Mr. Ben Hogan, the converted sporting man. After the meeting had been opened by singing and a short prayer by Rev. C.A. Cook, Mr. Hogan, introducing himself, proceeded to give a history in brief of his eventful life—its dark and bright side. He spoke with the eloquence of an earnest heart, and was listened to with attention for over an hour. He told how, as a boy, with never a day's schooling, he went to sea, and returning to New York, out of curiosity, sauntered into a gymnasium, which was the beginning of his career as an athlete, pugilist and trainer. His associations were altogether with men of this class, and with such an environment he grew up and became successful in his ventures, and made money rapidly as a keeper of sporting houses in Pennsylvania. Thus he acquired not only an appetite for alcoholic drinks himself, but came to regard the business he was engaged in as right, so that he even felt justified in seeking to kill prominent temperance agitators who held meetings denouncing the liquor traffic, thereby injuring his legal business.

While thus engaged a few years ago, Ben Hogan came to New York, intending to embark thence for Paris. While here, against a solemn resolution he had made, he was persuaded to drink and to gamble, and lost a great deal of money. Reduced almost to despair, he was brought into a temperance meeting conducted by Mr. Sawyer, not knowing the kind of place he was in, having never before attended a religious meeting. The result was a radical change in his nature. In a most wonderful way, as he believes, God turned his feet from paths of sin to ways of righteousness, and he became a reformed and happy man.

His theology and religion, as indicated by his manner and speech, are of the simplest and most practical kind, and he is evidently thoroughly in earnest in seeking to reclaim the unfortunate and the erring.

## Ben Hogan.

On Monday evening, July 16th, at Mr. Spragg's pavilion, Ben Hogan, the reformed pugilist, will deliver his favorite and celebrated lecture on "Physical Culture," showing how great athletes and pugilists are put in condition. Mr. Hogan has trained some of the leading athletes and fighters in this country. He speaks from a large experience and handles the subject in a humorous, practical and forcible manner. He has delivered this lecture in Yale College and in other colleges and in churches in the United States. There is usually a charge of fifty cents admission, but on this occasion the lecture will be delivered free to the people of Bloomfield. All of those who attended the first meeting on Monday evening last will be welcomed to this, and any other persons who feel interested in the subject or speaker are cordially invited. This will be a rare treat of its kind, coming as it does from a man who has had such a large and practical experience in this line in his life and on the training grounds.

There will be music and singing from 7.45 to 8 o'clock at which hour the lecture will promptly begin.

Persons coming in first are particularly requested to take the front seats, and fill up so that as many as possible may be quickly and quietly accommodated with sittings.

The following newspaper clipping gives evidence that Mr. Hogan's lecture on "Physical Culture" is acceptable even among the educated classes:

"Mr. Hogan lectured last night to a students of Yale College. He was highly appreciated by those who were present. The ideas set forth by him were practical and sensible. He illustrated the lecture by practical demonstration of the feasibility of ever one being their own gymnast without any apparatus. He also demonstrated how the blood could be so controlled as to be thrown to any portion of the body desired." *New Haven Union.*

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